

THE CIA'S FOUR MISTAKES IS TOO MANY

CPYRGHT.

How the Central Intelligence Agency has repeatedly broken the law.

From our Own Correspondent

New York. Aside from the multitude of paid, professional spies under the employ of the US Central Intelligence Agency, there are untold thousands of unpaid "part-timers" from every walk of life who act as amateur information gatherers. Hundreds of Americans and foreigners are recruited each year from among the many travellers bound for countries behind the Iron Curtain. Every year, too, a few US business men and engineers behind the Iron Curtain are arrested and charged with espionage. There is an indignant statement from the State Department and an indignant editorial and news report in the *New York Times*. But no substantial efforts are made to obtain the release of such people.

Interestingly enough their release, when it eventually occurs, draws no publicity and no protests by the former prisoner about the State Department's failure to obtain an earlier release, of the type that managed to free Yale University Professor Baghorn three years ago. At that time, President Kennedy gave Moscow his personal assurances that Professor Baghorn was not a spy. But no such efforts are made on behalf of the rash of businessmen who have been arrested over the last few years.

Although it may seem curious that a telephone company engineer or a sales representative of a major chemical firm would ever be charged with espionage, the simple fact is that knowledgeable travellers—chemists, engineers, and other specialists—are continually being contacted by the CIA and asked to "report anything interesting" they happen to "stumble on" behind the Iron Curtain.

Unfortunately, amateur spies have an embarrassing propensity for over-eagerness, and they often stumble right into the arms of a Communist counter-spy. They are warned in advance, of course, that if arrested, neither the State Department nor the CIA will admit having any connection with them.

That the CIA has been recruiting unofficial spies from every walk of adult life is not too surprising. What did come as a surprise to Americans last week was the news that the spy organisation has also been recruiting unofficial, part-time spies from the ranks of the nation's university students. It has been doing this by illegally feeding funds to tax-exempt foundations ostensibly interested in education projects. These foundations, in turn, have been syphoning the CIA funds into several student organisations, most notable of which is the National Student Association. This is the largest such group in the US, and hitherto respected as a liberal student group which has taken stands on national issues by applying concerted, though non-demonstrative, pressures on university administrations and on the Government itself.

The NSA, too, represents American students at most world

meetings for students. It has sponsored many visits to the US by foreign students. Its expanded role in student affairs dates back to 1952—when, we now learn, the CIA began giving the group its financial support. In exchange for CIA help, NSA leaders have agreed to report back after every international youth meeting on student Communist leaders who might one day affect the national policies of their respective countries. One can only speculate about other assignments that have been given to NSA leaders and representatives.

In all probability the CIA has now destroyed the NSA as a useful organisation to represent American university students at international student meetings. It will always be suspect.

Wider Implications

But the CIA-NSA scandal has far wider implications. Until now the CIA has never been subject to public scrutiny. Even the Congress, which must approve all appropriations for all government agencies, has never been permitted any scrutiny of CIA affairs. Funds spent by the CIA are appropriated through vague budget items scattered throughout the enormous Federal Budget, then gradually syphoned out as needed. There was an obvious security reason for permitting the CIA to operate in this way. But to mitigate the possibility of any CIA "take-over" of the Government, Congress did legislate a few safeguards. First, and foremost, the CIA was not permitted under any circumstances to operate within the boundaries of the United States. All counter-espionage work was to be delegated to the FBI.

The CIA-NSA scandal, however, is the fourth serious breach of that law by the spy organisation. Several months ago some enterprising newsmen learned that the CIA was financing a number of research projects at several major American universities. It was then learned that the agency had, for several years, actually been recruiting new full-time spies from university campuses, in much the same way that any corporation recruits future executives.

Finally, three weeks ago it was revealed in Washington that the CIA had financed publication of at least 11 books for distribution inside and outside the US. Even more scandalous was the fact that these books are being presented to the public as ordinary books. No mention is made that the publisher was subsidised by the CIA or the USIA.

Aside from making US taxpayers subsidise these books such publication violates a number of laws: the CIA violates the law prohibiting any operations in the US; the USIA violates the law prohibiting distribution of USIA propaganda within the US; both agencies and the authors of such books